

Betty Solek
725 Lincoln Ave.
Louisville, CO 80027
betsolek@sprynet.com

RE: Comment on FCC decision on changing media ownership rules

Filing no. 02-277

I am writing to oppose the changing media ownership rules. I am also appalled at the lack of public process to consider changing such important and long standing rules concerning media ownership.

I am not understanding why the fundamental mission of the FCC, as watchdog for the public to maintain the airwaves as diverse, public domain, is being changed so drastically and quickly. The lack of discussion about why these changes are needed is disturbing. The potential for conflict of interest is immense. When political and economic interests are too close, the disservice to the public is not in our interest. The media has a higher mission as supported by the mission of the FCC, to maintain diversity. It is outrageous that only 1 public hearing has been held on such an important change. The Telecommunication Act requires only that this issue be revisited every 5 years-there is no requirement to change the fundamental mission of the FCC>

As an employee of a municipal government, I am also concerned about the homogenous nature of news account which is provided by central stations located far from potentially disastrous events. The media is a very important tool in responding to disasters and the lack of local station representatives makes timely response challenging, if not disastrous. There are so many examples of large companies providing poor customer service these days, that I lack confidence in large media conglomerates to pay attention to local needs for news and community alerts.

In summary, I am opposed to the proposed changes to allow greater consolidation of ownership of TV or radio stations. Maintaining diversity of news is an essential part of the FCC's mission and the protection of the public air wave domain must continue. Thank you for your consideration.